

1 **SNAPSHOT****IT'S AGAINST THE LAW!****In the United States**

- It is against the law to hunt camels in Arizona.
- In Kentucky, the law requires people to take a bath once a year.
- In New York City, horses must be given a 15-minute "coffee break" for each two hours of work.
- In the state of Washington, it is illegal to pretend your parents are rich.

**In other countries**

- In Turkey in the sixteenth century, coffee houses were closed and declared against the law.
- It is illegal to own a dog – except a Seeing Eye dog – in Reykjavik, Iceland.
- It is against the law not to flush a public toilet in Singapore.
- In Finland, people must know how to read in order to get married.

**Talk about these questions.**

Can you think of reasons for any of these laws?  
Do you know of any other strange laws?

Source: *It Is Illegal to Quack Like a Duck*, *The Book of Lists*, and *All About Coffee*.

2 **CONVERSATION**

**A**  Listen and practice.

- April: Rich, you look exhausted!  
Rich: I know. I didn't get much sleep last night.  
April: What happened?  
Rich: Remember those guys I told you about?  
April: The ones that just moved in next door?  
Rich: Yeah. They had another party, and the noise kept me awake all night.  
April: Well, something has got to be done. This has happened every weekend since they moved in!  
Rich: Yeah. Tell me about it. I finally had to call the police.  
April: I would have done the same thing. They shouldn't be allowed to disturb people like that. And anyway, they should have at least invited you to the party!



**B Class activity** What would you have done in Rich's situation?

### 3 GRAMMAR FOCUS

#### Recommendations with passive modals

**When you think something is a good idea**

People **ought to be required** to end parties at midnight.  
They **shouldn't be allowed** to disturb people like that.  
They **should be required** to invite their neighbours.

**When you think something is absolutely necessary**

Something **has got to be done** to stop late-night parties.  
A rule **has to be made** to stop these disturbances.  
Laws **must be passed** to control the noise.  
People **mustn't be permitted** to have all-night parties.

**A** How do you feel about these issues? Complete the sentences positively or negatively. Choose a modal that shows how strongly you feel.

1. People ..... to smoke on airplanes. (allow)
2. Young people ..... to get married at age 15. (permit)
3. People ..... to recycle all disposable products. (require)
4. Laws ..... to control people's consumption of sugar. (make)
5. People ..... to have pets in high-rise apartments. (allow)
6. Scientists ..... to use animals for research. (permit)
7. Laws ..... to ban the sale of handguns. (pass)
8. The sale of fur products ..... (permit)

**B Pair work** Compare your statements with a partner.

Do you agree with your partner? If not, why not?

### 4 GIVING OPINIONS



People give opinions and respond to them in different ways.

**Giving an opinion**

I feel that . . . .  
I don't think that . . . .  
In my opinion, . . . .

**Asking for reasons**

Do you? Why? / Don't you? Why not?  
Why do you say that?

**Acknowledging an opinion and offering a different one**

That sounds interesting. But I think . . . .  
That's not a bad idea. On the other hand, I feel that . . . .  
You may have a point. Nevertheless, I think . . . .

**Giving reasons**

Well, because . . . . And another thing . . . .  
Because I think that . . . .

**A** Give opinions about how these people should be treated or should behave. Write down two opinions for each.

parents    students    teachers    employers

**B Group work** Compare your opinions.

A: In my opinion, parents should be given a day off from their children.

B: Really? Why?

A: Because they need free time, too.

C: That's not a bad idea. On the other hand, . . . .

*In my opinion, parents should be given a day off from their children.*



# 5 LISTENING

CLASS AUDIO ONLY

**A** Listen to people discussing these problems. What solution do they suggest for each problem?



1. people using cellular phones in restaurants



2. car security alarms going off at night



3. telemarketing salespeople calling too often

Solution	
1.	.....
2.	.....
3.	.....

**B Group work** Do you agree or disagree with the solutions? What do you think should be done about each problem?

# 6 WORD POWER Social issues

**A Pair work** Talk with a partner about the meaning of each word or expression. Which do you think are issues in your community? Check (✓) the appropriate boxes.

... is an issue in my community.	
Affordable child care	<input type="checkbox"/>
AIDS	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alcohol abuse	<input type="checkbox"/>
Company downsizing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ethnic conflict	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gun control	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health care	<input type="checkbox"/>
Homelessness	<input type="checkbox"/>
Illiteracy	<input type="checkbox"/>
Street crime	<input type="checkbox"/>



**B Group work** Join another pair of students. Which three problems concern your group the most? What should or can be done about them?

## 7 CONVERSATION

**A**  Listen and practice.

Sarah: Health insurance bills, child-care bills, rent! Now that I'm going to school and only working part time, I have a hard time making ends meet.

Todd: Health insurance is so expensive, isn't it?

Sarah: Yeah! My company used to pay for it when I was working full time.

Todd: And child care isn't cheap either, is it?

Sarah: No, it's not. After I pay for rent and groceries, almost all my money goes to pay for my son's day care.

Todd: Your college should provide free day care for students with children.

Sarah: I think so, too. But they don't have any services like that.



CLASS  
AUDIO  
ONLY

**B**  Listen to the rest of the conversation. What is Todd concerned about?

## 8 GRAMMAR FOCUS

### Tag questions

#### Affirmative statement + negative tag

Health insurance is so expensive, isn't it?

There are lots of criminals in the city, aren't there?

They should provide free day care, shouldn't they?

#### Negative statement + affirmative tag

Child care isn't cheap either, is it?


There aren't enough police, are there?

You can't find affordable child care, can you?

Add tag questions to these statements. Then compare with a partner.

1. You can't escape advertising these days, ...?
2. There aren't enough days in the week, ...?
3. AIDS is a major medical threat, ...?
4. It isn't easy to save money anymore, ...?
5. Sales tax should be abolished, ...?
6. Too many people are unemployed, ...?

## 9 PRONUNCIATION Intonation in tag questions

**A**  Listen and practice. Use falling intonation in tag questions when you are giving an opinion and want to know if the other person agrees.

Homelessness is a terrible problem, isn't it? They should make gambling illegal, shouldn't they?

**B** **Pair work** Take turns reading the statements with tag questions from Exercise 8. Give your own opinions when responding.

# 10 IT REALLY BUGS ME!

**A** What are some things you feel strongly about in your school or city? Write six statements with tag questions.

**B Group work** Take turns reading your statements. Other students respond by giving their opinions.

- A: The food in the cafeteria is terrible, isn't it?
- B: Yes, it is. They should get a new cook.
- C: On the other hand, I like the hamburgers because . . .



# 11 LISTENING

CLASS AUDIO ONLY

**A** Listen to people giving their opinions about current issues in the news. What issues are they talking about? Then listen again. What opinions do you hear for and against each issue?

Issue	Opinions for	Opinions against
1. ....	.....	.....
2. ....	.....	.....

**B Group work** What do you think about the issues in part A?

## interchange 15

### Setting the rules

What if you could make the rules? Turn to page IC-20.

# 12 WRITING

**A** Write two paragraphs about one of the topics in this unit that you feel strongly about. In the first, give your opinion and two or three reasons to support it. In the second, say what you think needs to be done.

*I think a lot could be done to make our public schools more interesting for students. Right now, there are not many after-school activities, and many of the school buildings are run-down. . . .*

*I have a few improvements to suggest. I think a video room ought to be provided for students to use when they have free time. This room could include both entertaining video games and educational CD-ROMs. . . .*

**B Pair work** Exchange compositions. Does the first paragraph give reasons to support the opinion? Does the second paragraph say what needs to be done? Do you agree with your partner's opinion and suggestions? Why or why not?

**13 READING**

# HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

PART OF THE SOLUTION

Look at the pictures. What social problem do you think Habitat for Humanity is helping to solve?



the Carters



building homes in Guatemala

Over 1 billion people lack adequate housing. These people are found in every country of the world and, indeed, in almost every community. They live in huts made of sticks, mud, cardboard, or metal; in some cases, they don't even have a roof over their heads. The problem is huge. Does this mean there is nothing that can be done?

According to the people at Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI), there's plenty that can be done. HFHI was founded in 1976 by Millard and Linda Fuller, millionaires who decided their money could best be spent helping people. Since then, HFHI has helped fix and build homes for tens of thousands of people in the United States and over 30 other countries.

A look at who builds these homes reveals a lot about HFHI. Jimmy Carter, former U.S. president, and his wife, Rosalynn, spend a week

each year helping to build houses. Evinor Mira, a 16-year-old high school student, recently helped to build houses for his family and others in his community in Tepetitán, El Salvador.

HFHI believes that the homes should not be given as charity; instead, the organization follows a system known as *partnership housing*. The people who will live in the homes, like Evinor, work together with volunteers on the construction and then gradually pay off the basic cost of the homes. These payments, together with contributions, enable HFHI to help other people.

By tackling the problem of inadequate housing, HFHI tackles other important social problems as well. People who have decent homes are better able to manage in life and to be productive members of society. And when homes are improved, neighborhoods and communities can be improved, too.

**A** Read the article. Check (✓) True or False. For the false statements, give the correct information.

	True	False
1. There are some countries without housing problems.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Habitat for Humanity was founded in 1976.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Habitat for Humanity was founded by Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. HFHI has helped people in over 30 countries.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. <i>Partnership housing</i> means that HFHI works with a government agency.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**B Group work** Talk about these questions.

1. Why is housing such an important social issue?
2. In what other ways could the issue of inadequate housing be dealt with?
3. Do you think that individuals can make important contributions to solving social problems? Why or why not?